

OPERATIONS GROUP FILE

BBC

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(CONFIDENTIAL)

C O N F I D E N T I A L 161536Z AUG 79 STAFF

CITE FBIS/LONDON 16894

TO: FBIS.

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1. EBC BUDGET CLOUD CONTINUES THREATENING, BUT WITH POSSIBLE TEMPORARY SILVER LINING. LORD CARRINGTON HAS JUST REAFFIRMED INTENTION TO CARRY OUT FOUR MILLION POUND REDUCTION IN EXTERNAL SERVICES. AT SAME TIME, IN MEETING AT FOREIGN OFFICE YESTERDAY, RAE WAS TOLD THAT IT IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY GOVERNMENT CAN PRODUCE ITS WHITE PAPER ON PROPOSED CUTS BY THIS FALL. ONCE PAPER DOES APPEAR, ENSUING CONTROVERSY IS EXPECTED TO EXTEND INTO EARLY 1980, BY WHICH TIME IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE FY-80-81 BUDGET WITHOUT ADOPTING DRACONIAN MEASURES.

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2. [] 16 AUG 85.
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